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(SECRECY)

WASHINGTON-- TWO SENATORS COMPLAINED TODAY THAT CONGRESS IS BEING KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT SUCH GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AS SECRET DEVELOPMENT OF THE A-11 SUPERSONIC PLANE.

SEN. GORDON ALLOTT, R-COLO., A MEMBER OF THE SENATE MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, RENEWED HIS COMPLAINTS ABOUT A-11 SECRECY IN A SHORT SENATE SPEECH. HE SAID IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE GOVERNMENT COULD SPEND \$100 TO \$500 MILLION ON SUCH A PROJECT WITH FEW MEMBERS OF SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

ALLOTT SAID IT "GIVES RISE TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM AND WHERE WAS IT HIDDEN IN THE BUDGET?" IT IS, ALLOTT SAID, A "GRAVE THREAT" TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. HE CALLED IT THE MOST "FLAGRANT" INSTANCE, IN HIS EXPERIENCE OF SUCH EXECUTIVE BRANCH SECRECY.

ALLOTT SAID HE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND OF THE MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE A-11 DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES HAD NOT.

ALLOTT'S COMMENTS WERE CONNED BY SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., CHIEF SENATE SPONSOR OF A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD SET-UP A SPECIAL WATCH-DOG COMMITTEE IN CONGRESS TO RIDE HERD ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. MCCARTHY SAID ALLOTT'S COMMENTS UNDERSCORE HIS OWN CONCERN ABOUT WHAT HE CALLED THE FAILURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH "TO PROPERLY INVOLVE CONGRESS IN THE DECISION TO CHANNEL THESE MATTERS THROUGH THE CIA."

MCCARTHY SAID THAT, WHEN SUCH QUESTIONS ARE RAISED, THERE ARE ALMOST ALWAYS A FEW IN CONGRESS WHO "HAVE BEEN MADE PRIVY TO THE INSIDE INFORMATION." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT CAN SELECT ITS CONGRESSIONAL CONFIDANTS THEN THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE HAD MIGHT AS WELL BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE MEMBERS OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES.

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